

**XVI SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMISSION
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT
4th Meeting**

Decisions

12 November 2012
Geneva, Switzerland

Decision 1: (*agenda*)

The draft agenda, as circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted.

Decision 2: (*minutes*)

The draft minutes of SC XVI-3, as circulated in advance meeting SC XVI-4, were adopted.

Decision 3: (*rolling agenda*)

In view of the short duration envisaged for Meeting SC XVI-4, it was agreed to defer items from the decision sheet from SC XVI-3 and to develop that instrument into a rolling list of actions.

Decision 4: (*Standing Commission budget*)

The Standing Commission felt that, given the difficult economic circumstances facing National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation it should not pay for the proposed Council of Delegates stand-alone website (see below) and that the Regional Meetings and Consultations item should be reduced from CHF 30'000 to CHF 10'000.

Decision 5: (*website for statutory meetings*)

The Standing Commission decided not to adopt the proposal for a one-stop website dedicated to the statutory meetings scheduled for Sydney 2013, and asked its Secretariat in co-operation with the Joint Organising Committee to look into achieving the objectives of the proposal through modifications to the Standing Commission website or otherwise.

Decision 6: (*Working Group on Movement Fora*)

The Standing Commission heard a brief update on aspects of the work done for the Working Group on Movement Fora from its Chair Mr Steve Carr. The Standing Commission expressed its support for the direction taken and looks forward to a further update after the second meeting of the Working Group, scheduled to take place in February 2013.

Decision 7: (*Henry Dunant Medal*)

The Standing Commission heard a brief update from Dr. Massimo Barra. Dr Barra outlined his general approach to tackling the task given to him at the previous Standing Commission meeting to the criteria for the award and how better to promote and celebrate the award and the option of creating a special Henry Dunant award for the anniversary, including the option of awarding it to someone from outside the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Dr Barra will write to all National Societies to solicit their views, and that request to be repeated through the forthcoming call for nominations for the Henry Dunant Medal and the Red Cross Red and Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity. Dr Barra will also interview a selection of leaders of Red Cross Red Crescent networks, as well as past leaders of both the ICRC and the International Federation with a view to soliciting their views on those subjects.

Decision 8: (*Cyprus*)

The Standing Commission received an update from Dr Mohammed al-Hadid – Representative of the Standing Commission and Chair of the Working Group of the Governing Board of the International Federation on Cyprus – during which he expressed his view that solutions are available that will satisfy both Cyprus Red Cross, the North Cyprus Turkish Red Crescent, and other interested parties. It was noted that some specialist legal advice may be needed on the final solution.

The Standing Commission expressed its support and confidence in Dr Al-Hadid for his efforts and expressed its wish to review a specific proposal at its meeting in March 2012.

Decision 9: (*Implementation of the MoU between MDA and PRCS*)

The Standing Commission heard a report from the Independent Monitor, Mr Pär Stenbäck, about the implementation of the MoU and noted with considerable concern that Magen David Adom in Israel has not, so far, fulfilled all its commitments made at the 31st International Conference in November 2011.

The Standing Commission decided to convene an extra-ordinary meeting if the Monitor is forced to issue a negative report at the end of his mandate.

If that is the case, the Standing Commission will decide on a continuing and consistent monitoring process, in light of a Magen David Adom failure.

The Standing Commission decided to appeal to Magen David Adom in Israel and to the Israeli authorities to make a strong and decisive effort to finalize the few remaining issues in the MoU.

Decision 10: (*PanAfrican Red Cross Red Crescent Conference, Addis Ababa*)

The Standing Commission, several of whose members in addition to the chairman participated in the 8th Pan-African Conference in Addis Ababa in October 2012, expressed its satisfaction at the event and the excellent preparations and warm welcome extended by the Ethiopian Red Cross and its many volunteers and staff.

Decision 11: (*Operational briefings*)

Due to the briefness of the meeting no operational briefing was received. The Standing Commission expressed its wish to receive such an update at its forthcoming meeting, focussed on developments in Syria and the impact of these on the humanitarian situation in neighbouring countries.

Decision 12: (*Agenda for the 2013 Council of Delegates*)

Having reviewed and discussed a proposal for a draft provisional agenda for the Council of Delegates 2013, the Standing Commission decided that

- i. All efforts should be made to make the Council of Delegates as celebratory, stimulating and inspiring as possible for the participants, while at the same time making sure that essential business is conducted and necessary decisions taken.
- ii. The Council of Delegates should be the result of and reflect the dialogue between Movement components in advance of the meeting
- iii. This dialogue can include web platforms, social media; off-line communication and direct engagement between NS volunteers and staff, ICRC and Federation delegations. New technology should also be employed for enhancing the experience of being at the meeting through, for example, a twitter-wall, remote participation, and testimonials from overseas volunteers and delegates, and the like.
- iv. Any negotiations required to agree on the texts of decisions ought to, as far as possible, be concluded prior to the meetings so that their adoption becomes almost a formality at the Council itself
- v. The number of topics brought up for debate and decision should be minimized as far as possible, taking into account the need to deal with matters deriving from the statutes or from decisions by previous Councils.

- vi. In addition to those, obligatory, items, several other topics were identified for further study and possible inclusion in the draft to be circulated to National Societies for comment:
 - a. Health Care in Danger
 - b. Celebrating 150 years of Humanitarian Service
 - c. The Movement's core mandate
 - d. Fundamental Principles in Action / Fundamental Principles and Capacity building
 - e. Communications and dissemination of IHL: modernized methods
 - f. Capacity building framework
 - g. Taking stock of the outcome of the 31st International Conference, looking forward to the 32nd.
 - h. Working together on partnership and accountability: adaptability, quality, learning, training, technology, research, and similar
 - i. Working with others: Governments (auxiliary), co-operation, co-ordination, humanitarian diplomacy, donors and resource mobilisation
 - j. The Standing Commission recognised that the list of issues is too long to be accommodated and asked the Joint Organising Committee to develop further ideas and a consolidated draft agenda based on the proposal submitted, the discussion in the Commission and other material introduced at its meeting.
- vii. The number of workshops should be limited to four and the suggested topic at this stage were
 - a. Health Care in Danger
 - b. The Fundamental Principles in Action
 - c. Relations with External Actors
 - d. Challenges of Financing National Societies in the Future

Decision 13: (*forthcoming meetings*)

The Standing Commission confirmed its earlier decision to schedule meetings in 2013 as follows:

- In Geneva 25-26 March 2013 to review the draft agenda for the Council of Delegates prior to the dispatch of convocation letters to national societies and to attend to other ongoing issues
- In Geneva 16-17 September 2013, to review the Council of Delegates official documents before dispatch
- In Sydney, for part of the day on either 15 or 16 November 2013 – depending on when the Governing Board of the International Federation decides to meet

Decision 14: (*Red Cross Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity*)

The Chairman of the Standing Commission, Mr Greg Vickery, drew the attention of the Standing Commission to the *Red Cross and Red Crescent Prize for Peace and Humanity*, established in the late 1980's but hardly awarded since that time.

The Standing Commission decided to request its Secretariat to review the history, purpose and regulations of the Prize and to study possible amendments at its meeting in March 2013, with a view to considering the possibility of making an award at the Council of Delegates in 2013.

It was noted that nominations for the award will be sought in the interim in conjunction with the request for Henry Dunant Medal nominations